

LIFE OF MONTY

#45

SEPTEMBER 18, 1984

"They pelted us with rocks and
garbage!"

83HV - 84CI

50¢

Been a whila, hasn't it? Well, be glad that issue 45 of LIFE OF MONTY, typed up, folded, addressed, stamped, and put into the mailbox by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (415) 461-2692, uh, where was I? Oh, yes - that this issue 45 of LIFE OF MONTY has finally arrived into your mailbox, post office box, mail drop, or whatever the thing is that the mail types dump your LOM into. Thanks to these slightly-longer between-issue periods, there's a good chance of having both of the running Dip games actually appearing in their final forms - seems that the deadline was so short for 83HV last time that there was a correction to the report printed in LOM - there were no GMing errors, but the USPS decided to send the final report for Winter 1982 the same day that I mailed out the issues. (Don't worry - the players were notified. If you REALLY care about the game, the only change was that Austria built # Trieste instead of an NMN.)

Also, with a little luck, the TRIVIAL PURSUIT game may be heading toward a quick start. (Three people signed up within 10 days of the mailing of the issue - sure beats my Dip-opening rate, doesn't it?) Not only that, but my Kingmaker-filling has increased by 100%. That's right - now I've got TWO players!

And NOW for something - well, it's not exactly COMPLETELY different, but nevertheless it's....

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by GRAUSTARK, the semi-official 'zine (by default) of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Tokyo

Well, the Olympics will be over by the time I get this thing out, so now's as good a time as any to review my predictions made in issue 39. First, a couple of the "by default" predictions - I said that the USSR basketball team (men, that is) and Cuban boxer Teofilo Stevenson would not win, and I was right, wasn't I? (Look - after the problems the Americans had in 1980, I don't think the Soviets and Cubans should have booked their flights with Trans-Afghan Airlines!)

The other predictions: Liechtenstein will win a gold...Yugoslavia, Italy, and the USA are 1-2-3 in men's basketball...there will be a major controversy in men's gymnastics...no golds for our women gymnasts...the superheavyweight gold goes to either Biggs or Damiani...Carl Lewis wins four golds but jumps less than 29 feet and runs the 100 in at least 10 seconds...San Marino wins a gold...ABC manages to show all of 10 minutes' worth of six events where the Americans don't plan to do well.

The results: Well, Liechtenstein and San Marino get another try in 1988 (maybe)...basketball went USA-Spain-Yugoslavia, although Italy was upset in the semi-finals...no major controversies in gymnastics...our women nabbed 2 golds (out of a possible 6)...ABC coverage managed to get around to everything, although shooting and archery weren't covered with much effort (then again, when you consider that these competitions consist of people taking long lengths of time to put things through targets, any coverage would be welcome)...Lewis did jump less than 29 feet, but managed a 9.99 run in the 100 en route to his Fab Four...Biggs beat Damiani in the superheavyweight boxing final. Remember, a lot of these were made before the Soviets announced their boycott; instead, I predicted they would come after we out-golded them at the track & field championships in Helsinki last year.

BY THE WAY, the stuff on page 2 concerning Zola Budd and Mary Decker was typed up before ABC showed all of their replays which point out that Zola and Mary bumped into each other a few times, and that Zola stuck her foot in front of Mary to regain balance after being bumped. Of course, nobody remembers that the big duel at the world championships was between Mary (who won) and a (boycotting) Soviet woman....

See bottom of page 8

Speaking of the Olympics....OH, CANADA! Here's a situation involving Canadian boxer Willie De Witt against a boxer from an African country - Nigeria, I think. Anyway, in the third round (out of three rounds), the referee separates the fighters, stops the clock, and points toward the African boxer's corner. Under international rules, a boxer's corner men, while a round is in progress, cannot coach their country's boxer. The African corner received its third warning, which is an automatic ejection - not for the boxer, but the coach, who then left the arena floor. With about one minute remaining, the coach attempted to return to the corner. Under the rules, the ring security force - in this case, members of the Los Angeles Police - must escort the coach away from the ring. It seems that it required some bodily force to keep the coach away, which caught the crowd's attention, who sided mainly on the "anti-police" side (things like "police brutality", I suppose, they thought). It didn't get much better when De Witt got a unanimous decision in the fight (although he did deserve it)....

We wuz ROBBED! Evander Holyfield takes command of a New Zealand boxer in a light-heavyweight (81 kg / 179 pounds) semi-final, complete with 2 cautions (and 2 points taken away) to the NZ fighter, only to have our guy disqualified for hitting on the break. I don't care if it WAS the correct call (Holyfield did throw a punch well after the Yugoslav referee gave a "stop" command) - the New Zealander had his hand over the American's ear, among other things. At least the appeal jury decided to let our man keep his bronze medal (normally, disqualification - even in the finals - means no medal) - big deal. (It does begin to make up for the fact that another American boxer managed to win a fight because five members of the "international jury" happen to believe in "home ring advantage" or something like that - it's so big that Canadian Shawn O'Sullivan managed to ride in on one after being bashed around - er, uh, in a close contest with a French boxer.)

Biggest joke of the TV broadcasts goes to the Voice of America guy that came up with the idea of broadcasting radio Olympic broadcasts in many languages to the USSR. There is more than one language spoken there - but what are the chances that even one of the VOA broadcasts will get through in any detail past the Soviet jamming stations? (I'm surprised that Finnish TV broadcasts can be seen in Leningrad.)

Deja Vu: During the 1983 Pan-American games, in the 800-meter run, 1976 Olympic champion Alberto Juantorena was pinned against the inside curb of the track and fell to the ground in pain. Almost one year later, in the Olympic women's 3000, Zola Budd, the "instant Brit", managed to get a foot in front of Mary Decker - she literally had her foot directly in front (which is supposed to be illegal - then again, so is running into an inside lane too early, and our 4x400 relay team got sway with it, although this didn't have any effect on the result), forcing Mary onto the infield with a hip injury. (Note that Budd finished well back, while the man who tripped Juantorena went on to win.)

Deja Vu Part II: Olympic marathon, 1972 - it was announced that Frank Shorter would enter the stadium. Frank came in about 300 meters after an inspector (what else would cause the normally-cool TV announcer Jim McKay to say something like "Throw him off the track!"?). In the 1984 steeplechase final, the pack was followed over the first water jump by some banner-waving bozo who cut through the infield and almost caught the pack, while security guards chased him down the stretch. Naturally, this sort of thing will end up as proof that the Soviets were right in staying home because of the lack of security. (What would have happened had this guy tried this in Moscow? Making little ones out of big ones in Siberia, perhaps?)

And now for the big moment....LOM's choice for ATHLETES OF THE OLYMPICS! Carl Lewis? No - people expected him to win those golds. Gymnast Mary Lou Retton? The only reason she won was that the Rumanian, Ecaterina Szabo, fell in the preliminaries (otherwise Szabo won by 0.2 instead of losing by 0.05). How about Szabo and her 3 golds (plus the team gold), then? Are you kidding - after she was upset in the all-around? Diver Greg Louganis? The basketball team? The volleyball team? The water polo team, which fell one goal short of a gold? (They went undefeated, but gave up too many goals so the also-undefeated Yugoslavian team won on "goal differential".)

PAGE 2 lost on "words differential"

Well, the 1984 RUNESTONE POLL is now history, and here are the results:
(Numbers in parentheses indicate votes received)

1. EURPOA EXPRESS (67) 8.49
2. ENVOY (31) 8.00
3. POLITESSE (27) 7.86
4. THE PRINCE (38) 7.68
5. THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD (55) 7.65
6. LIFE OF MONTY (29) 7.64
7. SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS (28) 7.62
8. DIPLOMACY WORLD (74) 7.60
9. NO FIXED ADDRESS (34) 7.60
10. SNAFU (33) 7.51
11. FOL SI FIE (13) 7.45
12. VOICE OF DOOM (74) 7.43
13. RETALIATION (30) 7.34
14. RAGING MAIN (32) 7.21
15. WHITESTONIA (47) 7.12
16. BERSAGLIERI (19) 7.11
17. PERELANDRIA (31) 7.07
18. COAT OF ARMS (37) 7.00
19. NORTH SEALTH WEST GEORGE (36) 6.93
20. EMRAIN MACHA (21) 6.89
21. TER-RAN (16) 6.85
22. THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS (18) 6.81
23. IRKSOME (42) 6.80
24. MIDLIFE CRISIS (45) 6.76
25. Tie between THE DOGS OF WAR (18) and THE DIPLOMAT (18) 6.75
27. STRAIGHT FROM THE DIMMER'S MOUTH (21) 6.68
28. ANDUIN (45) 6.66
29. MAGUS (41) 6.65
30. XENOGOGIC (31) 6.62
31. BUSHWACKER (18) 6.56
32. WINSOME LOSESOME (33) 6.51
33. CATHY'S RAMBLINGS (38) 6.34
34. MURD'RING MINISTERS (35) 6.32
35. DIPLOMACY DIGEST (53) 6.31
36. CHEESECAKE (15) 6.30
37. HOUSE OF LORDS (23) 6.28
38. APPALLING GREED (29) 6.16
39. GRAUSTARK (12) 6.16
40. EREHWON (37) 6.09
41. EVERYTHING (25) 6.09
42. FESTUNGS HOF (13) 5.90
43. HAI! JAKAI! (32) 5.75
44. LIBERTERREAN (15) 5.69
45. WHO CARES? (27) 5.60
46. LONE STAR DIPLOMAT (22) 5.60
47. PARANOIAC'S MONTHLY (19) 5.52
48. YOU KNOW MY NAME (11) 5.36
49. GIVE ME A WEAPON (34) 5.06
50. MANIFEST DESTINY (33) 4.65
51. BATTLE STATIONS (12) 4.25
52. THE MODERN PATRIOT (34) 3.03

For those of you who MUST know this sort of thing, in case it appears on a future NADB exam, LIFE OF MONTY did make the largest point gain over last year.....I'll still never figure out how I finished sixth after years of 20s and 30s. However, there is some bad news....despite the apparent mandate from the masses, FNORD will still appear in LOM. And I'm glad I didn't appear on the GM list - maybe it was the letter I wrote to Randolph Smyth telling him I didn't GM any games during the applicable time period.....

TOP 20 GMs

1. JOHN DALY (8) 9.50
2. ANDY LISCHETT (8) 9.25
3. BILL PLACEK (5) 9.20
4. PAUL RAUTERBERG (23) 9.15
5. GARY COUGHLAN (11) 8.82
6. JIM MEINEL (23) 8.78
7. JAMES WOODSON (9) 8.77
8. Tie between DAVE CARTER (8) and DAVE KLEIMAN (8) 8.50
10. MIKE MAZZER (5) 8.40
11. JOHN CARUSO (9) 8.22
12. RANDOLPH SMYTH (5) 8.20
13. MIKE MILLS (6) 8.16
14. JUDY WINSOME (8) 8.12
15. MARK LUEDI (18) 8.05
16. Tie between STEVE ARNAWOODIAN (8), SCOTT HANSON (16), and RON (CAN) BROWN (8) 8.00
19. STEVE REINOWSKI (8) 7.87
20. DAN STAFFORD (7) 7.85

TOP 20 SUBZINES

1. SEX APPEAL (5) 9.00
2. TEMPORARILY DELAYED (13) 8.84
3. HIGH PLAINS GONZO (8) 8.25
4. FEMME FATALE (6) 8.00
5. SUBMARINE WARFARE (8) 7.87
6. MAGGIE'S ZINE (5) 7.60
7. STRANGE DOINGS (21) 7.47
8. KATHY'S KORNOR (39) 7.43
9. VERTIGO (19) 7.21
10. DIP CITY (5) 7.20
11. EXPLETIVE DELETED (26) 7.19
12. Tie between FIAT BELLIUM (25) and ELEPHANT HEART (6) 7.16
14. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT (55) 7.01
15. HUMBOLDT (23) 6.95
16. LITTLE DIPPER (19) 6.89
17. GALINATIAS (15) 6.86
18. CORN OFF THE COBB (10) 6.80
19. ME-ANN-DERINGS (6) 6.50
20. HARE OF THE DOG (12) 6.41
(FNORD finished 27 with 10 votes and a score of 6.00)

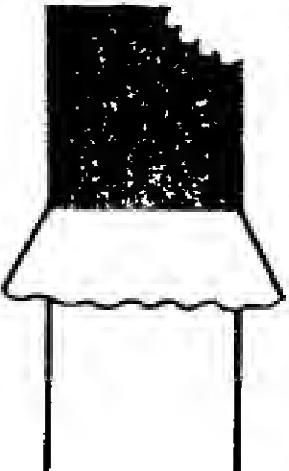
MOST VOTES

ZINE: (1) Tie between DIP WORLD and VOICE OF DOOM, 74
(3) EUROPA EXPRESS, 67

SUBZINE: (1) MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT, 55
(2) KATHY'S KORNOR, 39
(3) ESAD, 32
(4) BENZENE, 30
(5) Tie between ALEX'S COLUMN and MASS MURDERS, 27

GM: (1) Tie between PAUL RAUTERBERG and JIM MEINEL, 23
(3) BRUCE LINSEY, 21
(4) MARK LUEDI, 18
(5) SCOTT HANSON, 16

Neither did PAGE 3 - how did LOM do it?



FUDGE FACTOR

Just when you thought it was safe to follow things like Modern Calhamer Point Counts....it's too late! You're stuck with FUDGE FACTORS in this 'zine!

OK, I suppose you're asking, "What are Fudge Factors?" Well, the FUDGE FACTOR system is based on one simple proposal: that DIPLOMACY is NOT a balanced game. Some people claim that it's the person, not the position, that determines the winner, and since all countries tend to win at one time or another, all games should be treated equal. As I recall, the old WAR AT SEA rules (US ships could only come into play on a roll of 6) allowed both sides to win - but the Germans won twice as many times! Besides, everyone knows that Russia is easier to play than Austria.

So, somebody had to come up with a way to give each country an adjustment in order to make a win with a "hard" country more than one with an "easy" one - these are the FUDGE FACTORS.

A person's FF score for a game is the product of two things: one is the country's fudge factor, and the other is (maximum number of centers held in the game / 18) + (Calhamer points awarded). Note that the second factor is always 2 for a winning position, regardless of the number of centers held at the end (even on a concession). Each country's fudge factor is calculated by determining how many "standard errors" away from the mean of 1/7 that country's average CPC-per-game is (based on the last 8 issues of EVERYTHING). A "standard error" is $1/7 \times \text{the square root of } (6 / \text{the total number of games})$. For example: if Austria has a win, 2 2-way draws, and 4 7-way draws out of 24 games, the CPC total is 18/7, so the average is $(18/7)/24$, or 3/28, and the standard error is $1/7 \times \text{sqrt}(6/24)$, or 1/14. 3/28 is 1/28 below 1/7, so Austria is 1/2 of a standard error below the mean.

The actual "fudge factor" is 1 plus 0.2 for every standard error below the mean (so non-winning countries get large FFs) or minus 0.2 for every standard error above the mean. In the example, Austria is 1/2 of a standard error below the mean (which is always 1/7), so the FF for Austria is 1.100. Thus, a win as Austria would be worth 1.1×2 , or 2.2 points.

NOTE that the final scores are multiplied by 100, so that the points for that Austrian win are recorded as 220, not 2.2.

There are two kinds of overall fudge factor ratings for a player: the average score and the total score. Personally, I prefer the average, since using a total gives a big advantage to players who are in many games (this is one thing wrong with the CPC). There is a minimum number of games needed for a player to be eligible for rating; only one person per country per game gets that rating - usually the one who had the most SCs (in a win or draw power, the last player), but there are exceptions. Also, some, but not all, "irregular" games are counted; for example, most "irregular standby policy" games count, but "local" games don't. Also, electronic mail games count if they would otherwise count had they been PBM. (However, anonymous games are variants!)

OK, I know that went over most of your heads - suffice to say that you should look at the numbers and leave the grinding to me & my Atari. If you want to know how you stand through the last 4 issues of EVERYTHING, let me know. (By the way....a game is scored as it appears in EVERYTHING, so if you are a recent winner, your new scores may not be included. Also, fudge factors change with each new issue of EVERYTHING - the issue a game appears in uses the total games of that issue and the 7 before it to calculate the FFs; however, games in issues 57 and 58 were based on 7-issue counts.)

PAGE 4 - in vanilla-fudge color

AVERAGE SCORES - MINIMUM 2 GAMES

1. Errol Platt (2), 247.52
2. Norm Schwartz (2), 186.28
3. Mark Keller (2), 180.33
4. Jim Finley (2), 174.62
5. Horst John (2), 157.74
6. Steve Berrigan (2), 148.40
7. Tim Heffey (2), 147.72
8. Richard Carl (2), 146.69
9. Joe Clement (2), 143.62
10. Jake Walters (2), 143.15
11. Jeck Jung (2), 140.68
12. Peter Walker (4), 138.10
13. Ned Goltz (2), 138.01
14. Bob Olsen (5), 135.21
15. Glenn Overby (2), 133.33
16. Ben Angel (2), 131.21
17. Dean Fenton (2), 130.33
18. Stephen Lee (2), 126.44
19. Ron (USA) Brown (4), 117.95
20. Hugh Polley (3), 117.32

AVERAGE SCORES - MINIMUM 3 GAMES

1. Peter Walker (4), 138.10
2. Bob Olsen (5), 135.21
3. Ron (USA) Brown (4), 117.95
4. Hugh Polley (3), 117.32
5. Fred Winter (6), 116.45
6. Randolph Smyth (3), 112.26
7. Dan Gorham (4), 99.13
8. Jack Brewner (3), 98.92
9. John Aicken (4), 97.91
10. Walter Compton (3), 97.85
11. Kevin Kozlowski (3), 95.08
12. Stan Johnson (4), 95.07
13. Mike Mills (4), 93.19
14. Roland Morris (3), 92.77
15. Dan Stafford (4), 90.29
16. Barry Hickey (8), 87.98
17. Steve Langley (3), 85.96
18. Steve Arnawoodian (10), 80.36
19. Rick Slaughter (4), 79.88
20. Bob Arnett (7), 79.65

TOTAL SCORES - MINIMUM 3 GAMES

1. Steve Arnawoodian (10), 803.62
2. Larry McCloud (11), 752.09
3. Barry Hickey (8), 703.82
4. Fred Winter (6), 698.69
5. Bob Olsen (5), 676.05
6. Dan Palter (14), 669.66
7. Kathy Byrne (10), 658.88
8. Paul Reuterberg (9), 603.98
9. Bob Arnett (7), 557.58
10. Peter Walker (4), 552.40
11. Ron (USA) Brown (4), 471.80
12. Claude Gautron (7), 424.79
13. Bob Acheson (7), 418.03
14. Russ Rusnek (6), 402.77
15. Dave Carter (8), 396.91
16. Dan Gorham (4), 396.52
17. John Aicken (4), 391.64
18. Stan Johnson (4), 380.26
19. Mike Mills (4), 372.77
20. Dan Stafford (4), 361.16

Among players with 2 games, Errol Platt has 495.14 points, and Norm Schwartz has 372.55.

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of games for which that player was rated, and does not necessarily indicate the number of games he/she has appeared in.

-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-SALUTE-

LOM proudly salutes GARY C FROM MEMPHIS T for publishing this year's Runestone Poll winner, EUROPA EXPRESS. (Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118) How does he do it? Could it be those trips to Europe and farther-into-oblivion places like Sacramento? And why can't he lend in nearby airports? (In Sacramento, he had an early morning flight 90 miles away; In Flushing, he had to get to Newark, NJ!) Here comes the CANNON SALUTE.... (because of the complaints from the Diplomatic Empire of DIP WARZ about what the cannon does to their stories, I added a silencer this time)

PAGE 5 finishes fifth from the front

And now for my LETTER COLUMN....first off, a letter from the AAA CREDIT SERVICE of San Diego. It seems that a Mr. Alfredo Pacino of somewhere in the 619 Area Code area of California ran up a \$300 bill. His address is listed as 142 Elised Drive, so a computer at Pacific Bell decides that the address is an error for "142 Eliseo Drive" and tacks on the city of Greenbrae, CA, zip 94904, and sends it to - guess who?! Well, my parents (you don't expect ME to pay the bills - I hardly ever phone anybody - maybe a short call to New York or Memphis every now and then, although I've never actually called Memphis) attached a note to the bill, stating that no such person lived there, and besides, this is the 415 area code, at least 200 miles from the correct area code of 619 which is on the bill. A few weeks later, we get a "final notice" - and now, a letter from this collection agency saying to pay up within 5 days! Not being stupid, I read the fine print (on the reverse side of the letter) - I exercised my option to have the agency show proof that I owe the money. (Well, I don't owe anything - my name, and, for that matter, anybody named Del Grande, have NEVER been mentioned!) If I can get a copy of the original bill, I'll look up just where the area code/prefix combination happen to be, and get Pacific Bell to look there.

What I want to know is....how did this all start? The ONLY possible explanation - and this is VERY improbable - is that, while I was at UC-Berkeley, my last dormitory phone bill had to be sent to my permanent address, which must have been misread as Elised, so the computer makes the change whenever it sees the address.

OK, enough of this....and now, a letter from the current BNC, Kathy Byrne (160-02 43rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358):

Dear Don,

I appreciate your concern ((over the possible folding of KK)), but everyone in this hobby is not like you ((well THANK the LORD for that - thanks, Alex)). Some of them are very vicious & underhanded. Hey, you know me better, no one could drive me to quit unless I really couldn't take any more. All I ever wanted was to have fun. KK is still up in the air, I'm really not a quitter but, but I don't think that KK serves much purpose. It is really just a bunch of ramblings! No strategy, no tactics, nothing that ever makes sense. Yeah, I know, you have taken a lot of heat also, but not in the dirty manner that it is coming to me! You & Grabar have been 2 of my biggest supporters. Maybe it is time you both stopped supporting a dead horse & moved onto a winner. Don, I appreciate your support, and I consider you one of my closest friends, but this is something that I have to decide for myself. All the threats in the world ((see my comments after the letter)) won't get me to change my mind. I appreciate your loyalty, but believe me when I tell you - it is totally misplaced.

*****What was this "threat", you ask? I threatened to get people to call her up and say, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more!". Either that, or I threatened to continue writing, or something like that. Anyway, Kathy wants me to stop supporting a dead horse & move to a winner. Does this mean I should start my own column? "Don's Drive!", perhaps? How about "Monty's Mumblings"? What if I get Grabar in on it, and then we could call it "Kalifornia Kornor"? Why doesn't Kathy just keep going and we can all have business as usual?

And now here's one from John Caruso (same address as above):

Don:

Thanks for the suggestion of Coughlan for the DPP ((Diplomacy Players Poll - John asked for a possible replacement in case he can't do it this year)). I was thinking along the lines of giving it to Stafford (to consolidate the 2). ((DPP and Marco Poll)) But he's a good player - so I might give it to another Amer, like Luedl, Frueh or Peters, or to a Canadian (Carter, Hutton).

The OSS (Ombudsmen service) is just a list - but I'd want someone who answers people to hold the list and accept names. That might suit Coughlan better, if he'll take it.

PAGE 6 can't take anything

Dustin Laurence's THE SPACE VIKING had this missing last time:

Last Minute Software Review

Temple of Apshai

By: Epyx

In the interest of time I wasn't going to do a software review this, until I found out that I would be borrowing ToA shortly. This is one of the best D&D type games I've seen, and it's available for several computers, including Apple and (what else?) The Commodore 64. Characters, Dungeons, and what not can be saved on disk for future use.

One feature I like, and a D&D nut may not, is the way experience is applied. One of my complaints about D&D is that a sufficiently advanced character may have more "hit points", that is, be able to take more damage, than a Red Dragon. Such interesting but rather ridiculous events do not take place in ToA.

Among other things, there are four "levels" to the "Dunjon", with a total of 233 rooms, seven classes of magical items, and 24 types of monsters. The combat system is highly playable, though perhaps slightly over-simplified. The handling of traps, secret doors, and listening might fare somewhat better under a human gamemaster.

The character, (That's right, I said the, as in one at a time. Gone are the multi-character expeditions that are a staple of most RPG's.) has six basic attributes: intelligence, which affects the characters ability to parley with monsters and the innkeeper; intuition, which affects the ability to detect secret doors, traps, and unpleasant surprises; ego, which also affects your ability to influence others, as well as measuring how determinedly your character fights when wounded; strength, constitution, and dexterity, which have basically the same usage as in other RPG's.

The manual is very well done, with a light touch, as we have come to expect from Jon Freeman. (The author of the manual for this and other Epyx games, among other things.) One of the monster descriptions: "Jellies- are formless masses of translucent jelly about three feet high and six or eight feet across; their touch dissolves flesh. They have no socially redeeming value."

One really nice touch is the character set that is used. On the C-64, at least, it is child's play to replace the Commodore character set with just about anything you want. For you non-programmers, this just means that all the letters in ToA are in Old English script.

If this review seems unorganized, that's because I'm kind of rushed for time. I wanted to send this to Don much earlier, but I knew I'd be borrowing ToA eventually and just had to include a review. Anyway, it gets high marks from me. How much? Well, I stayed up till 1:30 two nights in a row playing. (This is not something that I recommend as a regular thing, especially after a TaeQwonDo class. I'm so stiff I can hardly move!)

Loose Ends Dept.

Send in your opinions, suggestions, comments, or whatever. I want to start a lettercol, so this is your chance to be heard. If you don't, I'll just have to fill pages myself with more insanity from the Viking's wordprocessor. Consider yourselves warned.

****WARNING! Oh, NO! This is the END! Let me OUTTA HERE! What? What's THAT? That automatic floor-waxer is headed right for me (THUMP MAX WHIPLASH).....That was for you David Letterman fans out there - maybe next time I'll throw things off the top of the 'zine.

As for TEMPLE OF APSHAI, it's better than TELENGARD (at least it's faster between turns, and you have a choice of weapons). However, if you don't own disk, it requires a lot of time to get the program off of the cassette.

PAGE 7 says the Panicky Guy is out,
and "They pelted Us With Rocks &
Garbage" is in

THE GAMES

84CI, FALL 1901.....HAS DOYLE BEEN TAKING LESSONS?

AUSTRIA (Wagner): MMR - has A BUD, A VIE, F ALB
ENGLAND (Martin): A EDI-Lon, F NTC C A Edi-Lon, F MWG-Nwy
FRANCE (Bjornson): F ENG-Lon, A Gas-SPA, A Spa-POR
GERMANY (Doyle): A Ruh-BEL, F MOL S A Ruh-Bel, A Kie-DEN
ITALY (Stegeman): A TRI-Ser, A Apu-TUN, F ION C A Apu-Tun
RUSSIA (Lee): A STP-Nwy, A War-GAL, F Sev-RUM, F Bot-SWE
TURKEY (Gestiehr Jr.): A BUL-Ser, F Con-AEG, A Arm-SEV

SC COUNT for 1901

AUSTRIA: Bud, Vie, TRI - 2, remove 1
 ENGLAND: Lon, Edi, Lvp - 3, even
 FRANCE: Par, Bre, Mar, SPA, POR - 5, build 2
 GERMANY: Kie, Mun, Ber, DEN, HOL, BEL - 6, build 3
 ITALY: Rom, Ven, Nap, TBI, TUN - 5, build 2
 RUSSIA: Stp, Mos, War, Sny, SWE, RUM - 5, build 1
 TURKEY: Con, Ank, Smy, BUL, SEV - 5, build 2
 Hwy, Ser, Gre are still neutral - that's all 34 of them.

(Note that lined-out centers were taken away from the country, while capitalized ones are newly-owned SCs)

STANBY CALL: Will Ken Peel, 8708 First Avenue, #T-2, Silver Spring, MD 20910, send in a standby removal for Austria?

DEADLINE for WINTER 1901 only is SEPTEMBER 20. Here's the press:

ITALY to ALL: Please do not resist my troops. If you do, they will turn and run.

ITALY to GERMANY: I accept! Please show mercy (to England, of course!)
GERMANY-EUROPE: Dick Vitale says rack up a W. This was French Pastry.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As some of you know, ENVOY has been missing from our mails for quite a while, and the ZINE REGISTER is quite overdue. However, what worries me is that this "disease" may be catchin' - have any of you seen issues 125 and/or 126 of EREHWON? The last one I have is #124, dated June 11 and postmarked June 26. (Well, I doubt that 126 has come out, but it's been 7 weeks since 124 without me receiving number 125.) You EREHWON fans don't have to worry; I have a sure-fire plan to get Rod back on the publishing path...Rod, this'll be your last issue of LOM until such time as you come up with the cash and/or EREHWONs for the sub/trade. (DON'T PANIC! You still have 5 weeks...)

Speaking of late....just where IS Roy Henricks nowadys? I'm sitting here waiting for the results of 5 different games - haven't people stopped moking out 1040 forms yet? And there can't be THAT many clogged drains and leaky faucets in Pittsburgh! (Nobody seems to be able to get anything out of him - I'd walt until he had to resub to LOM, but he has a 6-month supply before that happens.)

SUB/TRADE/ETC. : XENOGOGIC

NOTES: this is PAGE 8

I'll be in San Diego on AUG 27
(then at PACIFICON ~~SAT~~^{SUN} 1-2)

MAKE UP YOUR OWN TITLE, WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

HERVE Spring 93

INTO EVERY TURN A LITTLE RAIN MUST FALL

A (Michalski): F Tri-Alb, A Bob-Gal, A Gre-Ser, A Bul-Con, F Aeg S A Bul-Con, A Tyr-Bah

E (Brawner): F Eng-Mao, F Nao S F Eng-Mao, F Nth-Eng, A Pic-Par

F (Gardner): F Por S Italian F Yme-Mao, A Gas-Par, A Bre S A Gas-Par

G (Shores): A Hwy S F Swe, F Swe S F Bal-Dob, F Bal-Dob, A Ber-Pru, A Sii-Ga, A Bur-Mun, A Kie S A Bur-Mun

I (Bowen): F Rom-Tys, A Mar-Spa, A Pie-Mar, F Nap-Ion, F Yme S F Spal(sc)-Mao, F Spal(sc)-Mao

R (Slaughter): F Gob-Bal, A Fin-Hwy, A Sev-Mos, A Ukr-War, F Rum-Sev

T (Ehli): F Con-Aeg, F Bla-Con, A Smy S F Bla-Con

All these glorious underlined moves do not succeed. I haven't seen so many bounces in one turn in a long time, you guys should feel proud. Only one dislodgement, though: the Russian F Gob is bounced to Lyn, Stp(sc), or Boxland.

Too bad, but none of the many proposals passed. I never heard back from the BNC on the "concession to Kathy Byrne" proposal. I will not be passed off like this, and have demanded that the BNC resign immediately. You'll see that I will not bow to the dictatorship!

Paul Gardner put a different address on his envelope: c/o Holtermann, PO Box 246, Randle, WA 98377. I don't know if this is a COA, or what. He's probably just trying to make me look like an idiot for printing just any old address. Use it at your own risk?

DERWOOD to MIKE: I just doubled the number of entrants in my game. If I can do that just two more times, I will have a game and a standby. Omigod!

DERWOOD to MIKE AGAIN: Since you are the only one writing press, I thought I would write to you. Bulgarians just have no sense of humor. The Greeks probably would have laughed.

ROCKVILLE: Yeah, it's important that you pick the right sort of audience for your particular brand of comedy. For instance, Paul is a big star in Madagascar, and Jack is the toast of Outer Mongolia. I try to limit myself to contacts with Verustians. I think they'd understand me.

TREEFLANTER to TURK: Anyone who has worked 8 hours in rain or 80° sun doesn't doubt reality. Reality is a delusion you can't escape. You can retreat or withdraw into yourself but the rain still sticks down your hair, runs down your back and drips off your nose. The kind of delusion you speak is too mobile to be true -- you don't like this one? No problem. Think up another. I suspect most philosophers of having had little contact with physical labor.

ROCKVILLE: If reality exists, how does one explain Don Bel Grande?

FRA to ITA: I'll write you this time, I really will. Just have to find my damn pen.

A to P: Please go Sev to Arm, Rick, or I'll be knocking at his door forever.

TURK to MR ROARK: There has been one instance where a game was conceded to a person not in the game. The "winner" was one Margaret Gemignant, a well known personality of many years ago. I'll have to check how the then-BNC ruled on the game.

ROCKVILLE: I have a vague recollection that this happened. Do you know how the BNC ruled? This could be of vital importance at a later stage of the game. Good ole Margaret, I remember her. She is the only person I know that could actually make typewritten letters illegible (try it yourself some day, it's quite an achievement).

Anyway, how about a new deadline, Don?

*****OK, DEADLINE for FALL 1993 is SEPTEMBER 13. Now, Dick, you have 7 days to get the thing in! Don't wait for your orders in 84CI this time - you almost ~~had~~ and ~~MSZRed~~ (No SubZine Received)

-SOFTWARE-SOFTWARE-SOFTWHERE-WHAT-AM-I-TALKING-ABOUT-WHY-ARE-YOU-READING-THIS-STUFF

I just got SUMMER GAMES by Epyx (this is the Atari version) - I don't recommend you get a cassette version, if one exists, because for each of the 8 events, you have to load in the event you want separately, which will take a long time on tape. Anyway, the events are: 100m dash, 4x400 relay, pole vault, gymnastics (vault), diving (10m platform), skeet shooting, 100m freestyle swim, and 4x100m freestyle relay. Each player gets the choice of one of 18 countries (one of which is "Epyx") complete with anthem (although Australia gets "Waltzing Matilda", Epyx gets the Jumpman theme, and the USSR song is not the anthem - I wonder about some of the others, although I know that the USA, Canada, (West) Germany, and Italy (oh...and France) have the correct anthems).

I suggest you wait until the bugs are fixed - the events are all fine, but the pre-event and post-event routines need more work (once, the graphics mode changed when I made a nationality change), especially the bit that tends to switch bronze and silver medalists! (A pole vaulter jumping 4.8m - about 15 feet 9 inches - lost to someone who missed 3 times at his first height!)

PAGE 9 set a personal record - 5 1/2 inches

((Fnord-- page fourteen))((editorial continued))

Personal attacks, that have little or nothing to do with the hobby or any portion thereof, really have no place in the hobby. The object of the attack can only be injured, and nobody benefits from it. Period.

Hobby-related attacks, such as accusations of GMing or publishing improprieties, or questioning the abilities of a hobby custodian, are not out of line, as long as they have foundation and are not combined with unrelated personal attacks. Unfortunately, there are many who do not know the difference between a personal attack and a hobby-related one. Combining the two is no better than a personal attack alone.

Other debates, such as political discussions, also have had personal attacks introduced into them. If people really want to argue over Grenada, nuclear freezes, Olympic boycotts and whatnot, stay on the subject and don't attack someone personally just because his/her views may be different from yours.

Well, that's how most feuds keep going. How do they start? That's a good question, especially since I should have covered it first. Disorganization, disorganization...

Many feuds start because of something that happens in a game that gets carried on long after the game is over. I suppose telling these people "It's only a game" sounds pretty trite, but it still applies.

Other times, someone takes another's comments, such as a humorous remark or some constructive criticism, the wrong way. Such oversensitivity is unfortunate, but continuing to exploit that sensitivity is much less than fair. And for some reason, there are a few who choose to level attacks on people for no apparent reason whatsoever, or for reasons so far removed from the hobby that they seem rather ridiculous.

You might say, "Well, it takes two to make a feud," and that certainly is true in many cases, where both sides continue going at each other long after their ammo has run out. Some are too eager to accept a challenge. Others adhere to a policy of "ignore them and they'll go away". But from what I have seen, if someone is intent enough on starting a feud, he'll succeed, no matter how long his target tries to ignore him. The target will reach the breaking point sooner or later and the feud is on. Everyone loses.

And the worst of all is when an active effort is made to drive someone out of the hobby completely for little or no reason. Fortunately this doesn't happen too often, though, and it's a good thing. Trying to do such a thing is about as low as you can get.

And now QUIZ/QUIZ/QUIZ/QUIZ/QUIZ, to see if you've been paying attention, a little QUIZ...

SITUATION 1: A guy wants to GM a Diplomacy game. He gets seven players to sign up, and the game begins. The game is well-run, and has been rather exciting. There has been an average number of stabs, and the game ends in a two-way draw between an original player and one that came in as a stand-by.

SITUATION 2: A publisher attacks another publisher in his (the first's) zine. The attacked publisher responds with a scathing attack in his own zine. Numerous charges and accusations fly, and numerous people become involved. Some quit the hobby in disgust; the rest hold grudges for years.

QUESTION: What in the HELL do these two things have to do with each other?

ITSACRUELCRUELSUMMERLEAVINGMEHEREONMYTOWNSACRUELCRUELSUMMERNOWYOUREGONE

GAME OPENINGS: Diplomacy, no fees. FIVE signed up, and others interested. You better hurry to get in on this one. (Coughlan, Gestiehr Sr., Wilson, Lee, Budway.) See you next month 

*****My answer to the question: the first is a game and the second is a hobby! As soon as you learn the difference, you can start your own 'zine (well, this and the ability to come up with pages of filler at a moment's notice....)

PAGE 10 is neither a zine nor the hobby
(filler, maybe)

WHITEFNUORDIA/KALLISTI KORNOR

Issue #8

August 10, 1981

This was intended to be a parody of W/KK, but instead is going to be just another SUEZINE, put out by me, Mike Ehli, 1715 Cottonwood, Springfield, OR 97477-7620, (503)726-6999, (except when you want to reach me, when I'll probably be at (503)343-6871.)

As I just said, this was going to be a W/KK send-up, but as many of you know, the last issue featured Kathy Byrne stating the possibility that she may leave the hobby due to the flak she has taken, and due to all the feuds she has had. I point out that she stated the same intentions to leave about three years ago, but later decided to stay. Nevertheless, it hardly seems right to do a parody with the situation as it is.

However, the situation there is not the only place where things have gotten ugly. There has been a lot of feuding going on all over the hobby, and I feel compelled to make a few comments of my own on the subject.

An Editorial

DISCLAIMER: This is not intended as an attack on or a defense of anyone in particular. I have not seen the majority of the details of all the feuding, I make these statements as a relatively unbiased bystander. These opinions are my own; I am not a toady to anyone.

One of the more popular activities in the hobby these days has been feuding. The reasons for this are many, but somehow none of them seem relevant or constructive to anyone except the parties involved, and the purpose of this feuding is a mystery to me.

Call me naive, call me uninformed, but it just seems rather silly to be bashing each others' brains out for whatever the reason. This is a hobby, after all, and hobbies are something which should be enjoyed by all.

Let us look at some of the types of discussion that goes on in the pages of the hobby.

(cont.)

Is it PAGE 11 or (page thirteen)?

So how's things? Thanks for the offsr of filler. I won't know if I need it until issue 90. It's up to Kathy re KK. You can send in stuff for W & I'll run it, as usual. It can't drive any more people away than, say, FIM. (You aren't going to sign that boycott, are you? ((What boycott? Anyway, no, I won't)) Want another FIM in the future? ((Sure, why not?)))

Mets have lost 6 in a row & Cubs are in first. We'll have to do something about that. ((Hire Frank Robinson?))

I think I've got room for one more, from Fred Davis (1427 Clairidge Road, Baltimore, MD 21207).

Dear Don:

I hope your comments in LOM #44 that "I'm trying to make sure Fred Davis doesn't hear about this until it's filled" were spoken in jest. I intend to take them that way. Naturally, some third party would get excited and pass this on to me in the form of a photocopy of your Pgse 1. I will disappoint them and not start a feud, as I'm such a nice guy (stab, stab). I really wouldn't have time to get into a Trivial Pursuit game just now, anyway. However, I would like to obtain a copy of your Rules for Postal Trivial Pursuit for my Variant Bank files, and will pay whatever is the usual rate that you're charging for a copy.

If you'd like, I'll agree to be a standby for your Trivial Pursuit game. But I don't want to do anything that would scare off other people. Heavens, I'm not that great. I've only played T.P. those two times at MaryCon II. There was no math and virtually no technical questions such as you'd get on "College Bowl". I was good at old movies because of my age, but I fell flat on my face on any Entertainment question involving the last 20 years.

It just occurred to me. If PBM T.P. becomes popular, we're going to need a numbering system. Since you started it, I recommend they be called "Del Grande Numbers".

Congratulations on finishing 6th in the Leeder Poll ((now called Runestone Poll)). You must be doing something right!

By the way, there was no "variant plot" in giving Lee Kendter the Miller Award. It was a very close race between he and Ron (Canada) Brown. And Walker's 1983 win was for his overall service to the hobby, of which the establishment of the ARDA Variant catalogue was just one small part. I'd say that his Editorship of DIPLOMACY WORLD was the primary consideration of those people who voted for him.

****To tell the truth, Kathy said that "having Fred Davis in the game would be overkill", although a game with such "intsllects" as Fred and Rod Walker might get some interest. However, if Fred would have wanted in, I would have let him in (even if no one else would have probably signed up.....). And there must be a better name than "Del Grande Numbers" - but until somebody thinks up one,.....

-FILLER-FILLER-FILLER-FILLER-YOU-CAN-SKIP-THIS-PART-IF-YOU-WANT-TO-FILLER-FILLER-FI

How many other 'zines warn you in advance (when else can you be warned?) that filler is coming, so you can read the good bits?

According to John Michalski, Avalon Hill has re-released Metagaming's HITLER'S WAR, although the game has been reworked (not just the same game with an AH label on it, like MACHIAVELLI). In the original, it was THIRD REICH on a simple scale; as a matter of fact, THE GENERAL's preview gave me the impression that it was suitable for novices. What is the objective? In the original version, there was one victory condition: at the end of the game, whom that has, gets - them that has Berlin, gets the win.

-THE-WINNER-THE-WINNER-THE-WINNER-THE-WINNER-THE-WINNER-THE-WINNER-THE-W-

Thought I forgot, right? Anyway, the LOM ATHLETE(S) OF THE YEAR:

The USA MEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM, for being the only team to do the impossible by defeating both the Japanese and world-champion Chinese (this team was one of very few USA teams not favored to win - while the handball and field hockey teams got lessons in their sports, the gymnasts taught a thing or two). Now let's see who Wide World of Sports and Sports Illustrated give their awards to.....(if the ice hockey team deserved the awards in 1980, these guys should rate right up there....)

PAGE 12 - the official page of the post-Olympics



DIPLOMACY - contact Mike Ehli (1715 Cottonwood, Springfield, OR 97477) and/or Derwood Bowen (1643 Granitewood Lane, Columbus, OH 43229) for details about games run in their subzines, FNORD and SUBMARINE WARFARE.

DIPPY STANDBYS (or however-it's-spelled): Mike Ehli and Ken Peel - rather short list, actually. Standbys get credit toward ANY 'zine, subject to the publisher(s): \$1 after 2 sets of orders, and another \$1 for finishing the game.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT.....Signed up: Byrne, Doyle, Ehli, Martin, Wilson. This game WILL start in the next issue, so if you want to join, you'd better hurry, because there may not be another one after this! (Than again, there just might, if the interest is there....)

WORLD CUP SOCCERLEAGUE.....well, no word yet - is this yet another of my brilliant ideas down the tubes?

NUCLEAR WAR/NUCLEAR ESCALATION.....still 2 signed up. I'm waiting for tha 'ZINE REGISTER - then again, aren't we all?

-NO-DUNE-NO-WAR-AND-PEACE-NO-THIRD-REICH-NO-EN-GARDE-YOU'RE-NO-FUN-ANMORE-NO-FOOL!



Well, the Linoleum Falcon managed to slip through an incredibly SMALL MINUTE TINY gap in the 3-space caused by the crossing of two Death Star & Anchor beams which would have probably spelled a rather nasty end to the Diplomatic Rebels - and this series -

had Garris the Elvi master not told Rod Seaparter to put on the brakes (well, it was actually an application of thrust in the direction opposite of travel - you see, using Newton's first law of motion,...). So anyway, the rebels managed to find a fuel stop (even if they didn't do windows), and were getting a snootful - er, uh, a tankful of unleaded, when this message blared over most known interstellar radio channels:

"For 10 points, which 'zine remained in limbo for months before it was discovered that its publisher had been sucked through a broken pipe and dumped into n-dimensional nullspace?" (pause) "Time's up - I'm not surprised you all missed this one, since it's more likely ancient history, but it happened to ENVOY back in the mid-1980s." (TWEET)

"At the end of the first half, the score is 140 for the New York Prison Colony to!"

OOPS - wrong station! Let's see - the message blared:

"ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! All nominations for the position of Supreme Diplomatic Emperor are hereby in. Here is a list of those so nominated: first, and foremost, the incumbent Supreme Diplomatic Emperor and all-around nice person, TS'R ALEX I THE VOICE OF DOOM. (Writer's note: the name of the Emperor is ALWAYS spelled in capital letters under penalty of supreme punishment - that's right, you have to punch out, using NO tools, the counters from a game in the new S&T) Second, and last, and of course least, that Diplomatic Rebel, and if that isn't bad enough, he's a friend of both Princess Luscious and Grabat the Hott....the one and only, and we're all glad for that, Rod Seaparter." At this moment, an incredible cheer spread throughout the galaxy - it was at such a volume and frequency that, when the remnants reached the Munchkin planet in the EGGhead system, the shock actually caused one of the populace to actually think about something besides AD&D, which is, of course, immediately punishable by death at the hands of a rainbow of dragons. (The only other crime worthy of such punishment is to not be in possession of the AD&D book DEITIES & DEMIGODS, since that's the only way it sells.)

"Is the message over yet?" asks a hardly-awake Oboe-1 Caruso.

"Prepare for waking-up procedure," announces John Pole-o. "Baldo Calberchian, apply concentrated sunlight factors."

"Huh?"

"Take off your hat!" responds Princess Luscious. "Pole-o, speak English next time!"

In english, this is PAGE 13

"ATTENTION! This means YOU, Seeparter! The Emperor hereby requests a debate over assorted Diplomatic Galaxy issues - met to be confused with issues of DIPLOMACY GALAXY, which nobody reads anyway - to be held on some neutral site determined by me, of course. When I say request, that means you'll be there OR ELSE.

"Just where is this neutral site, anyway?" Princess Luscious asks our hero, Rod Seeparter.

"Well, it's - it can only - HOW, where is it?"

"Taking into account current political tendencies of planets not already eliminated by those DEATH STAR & ANCHOR things, plus accessibility to the Empire's pain-distributing forces, and broadcast scramblers just in case Seeparter happens to get ahead... set course for -"

"For -"

"For -"

A huge banner reads "WELCOME TO THE ALMIGHTY EMPEROR and a nice hello to the soon-to-be-formerly-living challenger FROM THE ALLTOOCUNNING PLANET, WINDEESITTEE STAR SYSTEM" complete with gold-plated brass bands and a parade led by the Supreme Alltoocunning Two-headed Bisexual Bigshot in the Traditionally Diplomatic Vehicle. You know it when you hear it. It goes something like: chug-a-bump-bump-bump WHEEZE HACK chug-e-boom-bang-bang RUMBLE boom-ba-boom-boom-boom CLUNK CLUNK WHOOH "Grrr * Grrr piece of junk"

"Look, next time why don't you get us a decent car?"

Just then, a tremendous light shined down on them - er, him - uh, her - you get the idea.

"What is THAT?"

"It's either the Rebels without a certain somebody's hat, OR (flash of lightning goes ZOT) it must be OR."

"Out with the Imperial Marches! Roll out the multi-shaded red carpets! Prepare the expensive suite thingies! ALL HAIL -"

Out pops.... "GRABAR THE HOT!! Grabar the Hot? Where's the EMPEROR? Arrest this - AHEM for impersonating the emperor and using an illegal ZOT in a ZOT-free zone. Look - up there! Sound the trumpets! Get the carpets! Pay the diptaxes! Well, two out of three ain't bad." The ship comes down to a perfect three-point landing - too bad one of the three points happened to be the ship's nose. "No need to worry - the problem of the pilot has been taken care of. Say, there happens to be a job opening on this ship - why isn't everyone kneeling down and averting their eyes and most of all THROWING GOLD PIECES? I'm the EMPEROR dammit!"

"ALL HAIL EMPEROR DAMMIT! And wheddyamsan gold pieces? What is this, the Munchkin planet or something? And who are YOU - and YOU?"

"Well, this heed hero is Cunning Ozog -"

"Let me guess... this one is Alltoo Ozog, right?"

"Why do think we have such a stupid planet name?"

So anyway, the plans are made, the details worked out, DeLorean (choose one: proves that government doesn't pay, beats the rap), and all that. The broadcast frequencies are cleared - let's tune in to the action!

"And now for something completely different...."

How did that get in there?

"If I'm re-elected Emperor, I promise to boil the persons responsible for these broadcast irregularities in Linseed oil!" (Hushed cheers)

"Well, I'll go one better - I'll sentence those responsible to a life sentence of playtesting S&T games for TSR!"

"Speaking of which, re-elect me and I'll outsw AD&D!"

A voice from the audience: "Including DEITIES & DEMIGODS?"

"ESPECIALLY DEITIES & DEMIGODS, and I'll throw in MONSTER MANUAL II for good measure!"

Just then, the SATBB (see above) announced the first question:

"What is your standing on the recent attempts to monopolize on the locations of GALACTIC DIPCON?"

"As your Emperor, I feel that the majority should rule - however, with the current system which gives the con to 40% of the players 75% of the time, this is minority tyranny! As a member of the Eastern Spiral Arm Division (ESAD), I feel that all hobbyists should be allowed to choose the best location without limitations - and if this means it's always held out east, so much the better!"

PAGE 14 doesn't like AD&D - who does?

"WAIT A MINUTE! I've heard of Majority Law and Majority Tyranny, but this is ridiculous! All parts of the galaxy should have a chance to experience - appropriate word - GALACTIC DIPCON."

"Why? This could only mean that there are people who think they can match dots with the almighty players, the members of the ESAD! Having GD in other places would only perpetuate this rumor."

"I'd like to see the ESAD match dots with the League of Dippers North & South (LDNS)!"

Okay, time for the next question: "What do you intend to do about THE BOURSE?"

"As your current Emperor, I can state categorically that THE BOURSE would have been found and put to use for the hobby benefit had these rebels not stuck their noses in the way for their own gains."

"The only hobby benefit from the current Emperor having THE BOURSE would be a 'reduction of the riff-raff' - in other words, those who feel that it's only a game, it's just fun, and there's nothing to complain about in the hobby. It's obvious what effect the LEFT side of the - er, THE BOURSE has had on the Emperor - and especially the persons pulling the Emperor's strings!"

"What do you MEAN, pulling my strings?" Just then a loud SNAP is heard, the Emperor's left arm falls limp, and the voices of Yawn Boring and Lord Sacks Fifthavenue are heard: "OOPS"

And now for the LAST question - we'll use Barbara Walters' question from the 1980 Carter-Reagan debate, replacing references to President with Emperor: (this is not an exact quote)

"You've explained why you should be elected Emperor - can you think of any reasons why your esteemed opponent should not be elected Emperor?" I'll translate that....

"Here's the mud - how hard can you sling it?"

"As the Emperor, I'll let my opponent go first."

"I feel that the hobbyists would get better representation with a nice guy like me than with those shadow-crawling Empire guys."

"If I am re-elected, I won't allowly dissipate the hobby by letting those outside of ESAD think they are true hobbyists unless they fly out to the ESAD and meet us in person - not only that, but if I am elected, I won't destroy the hobby with the help of the left side of THE BOURSE. Choose wisely!"

Well, so much for the debate - a toss-up, don't you agree? Let's ask around for the result....

GRABAR THE HOTT: "I was too busy watching DIP BOWL."

EARL OF PEERICLES: "I don't believe in polls...unless I take them"

DOUG E AND MARIE: "What debate?"

BALDO CALBERCHIAN: "I remember the debate of a few years back...."

LORD SACKS FIFTHAVENUE: "Who, me?"

CARRA, THE ELVI MASTER: "Pass the grits."

YAWN BORING: "Prepare to biast the Linoleum Falcon - eliminate the planet if necessary!"

"But what about the Emperor?"

"It's that hard to find a new puppet? This left side thing is strong stuff, you know."

"Load the usual stuff?"

"How DARE you second-guess me! Call the (ZZAP) replacement pilot! Load.... load....it's time to go all-out!"

"SUBMARINE WARFARE, your almighty lordship?"

"Cut the almighty lordship jazz - I'm not Sacks Fifthavenue. Load - load the FNORD!"

"The....the FNORD? Isn't that cruel and inhuman?"

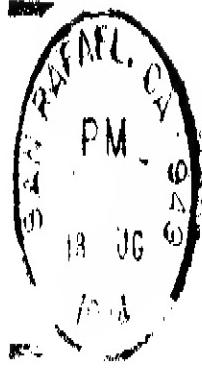
"Rather appropriate for the rebels, if you ask me. Set targeting vectors! Prepare for maximum demolition and total elimination! Hold the lettuce! Extra cheese! Now....a bit to the left....a bit to the right....a bit up....a bit down....now LAUNCH!"

WILL the empire be successful? Who is the new Emperor? And where's the beef - er, THE BOURSE? Maybe next time....

Well, so much for THIS issue. NEXT TIME, the start of TRIVIAL PURSUIT!

Question: where did the idea for PAGE 15 first come from?

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